



cityNEWS



◦ FIREFIGHTERS WANTED: JOIN OUR TEAM

Serve your community and gain skills that prepare you to face any number of challenges, both as a firefighter and as a civilian.

SEE PAGE 11

DOUGLAS DRIVE WORK BEGINS THIS SUMMER

Construction is set to begin in June on one of the oldest roads in Golden Valley.

SEE PAGES 8-9

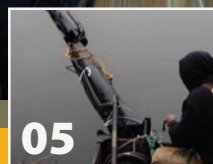
[in this] ISSUE

Views Of The Valley • **03**

Brush Pick-Up Is April 25-May 13 • **04**

2016 PMP Continues In Northwest GV • **12**

Blue Line Cities Grant Municipal Consent • **13**



05



10



14

Capital Improvement Program

CIP Identifies And Funds City Projects

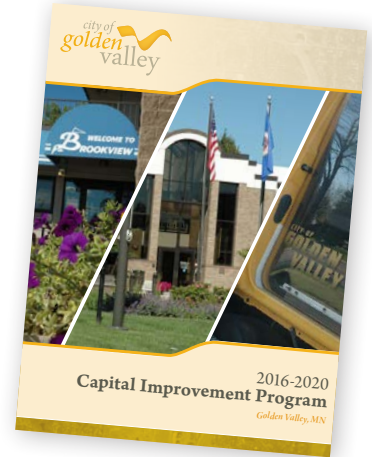
Golden Valley's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is a five-year fiscal planning instrument that identifies the City's needed capital projects and delineates the funds and timing needed to complete them. Most of these projects exceed \$10,000 in cost and require long-term financing, which is why the CIP also identifies bond issues needed to fund the year's improvements.

Each year during budget review time, the City Council receives an annual capital improvement budget that includes the projects outlined in the first year of the CIP. Although the State requires Cities in the metro area to adopt a CIP each year, this doesn't mean the Council is formally approving the projects. Each project in the CIP must be formally approved through the City's purchasing or public improvement process.

Each section of the CIP lists the upcoming project, a project overview, and an estimated cost. Financing sources are also analyzed, along with estimated future tax levies needed to fund the City's current and future general obligation debt identified

in the program. Sections of the CIP include financing, vehicles and equipment, parks, golf course, buildings, cablecasting, storm sewers, water and sanitary sewer utility, streets, and Douglas Drive Corridor Study.

As a planning document, the CIP ensures an orderly expenditure of funds as the City works to accomplish the goals outlined in its Comprehensive Plan, which covers housing, sanitary and storm sewers, public facilities, transportation, and parks and open spaces. It is available for viewing at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/budget/capital-improvement-program.php. If you have questions about the City's CIP, contact Finance Director Sue Virnig at 763-593-8010. 🐾



Serve Your Community As An Election Judge

Election judges make sure elections run fairly and smoothly. These paid officials work at our polling places to protect the rights of voters and certify the balloting results after the polls close on Election Day. Minnesota law requires that at least two election judges from different major political parties conduct certain tasks in the polling place to ensure the integrity of our elections.

The City of Golden Valley is always looking for qualified voters to act as election judges. You'd have to be available from 6 am to 10 pm Aug 9 and/or Nov 8, 2016.

State Requirements

Election judges serving in polling places must:

- be a United States citizen
- be at least 18 years old

- be eligible to vote in Minnesota
- be able to read, write, and speak English
- cannot be a spouse, parent, child, step-child, sibling, or step-sibling of any election judge serving in the same precinct
- cannot be a candidate or the spouse, parent, child, or sibling of any candidate on the ballot in that precinct

Duties

At each polling place, multiple election judges work together to:

- check voters in, distribute ballots, register new voters, and offer assistance as needed
- explain voting procedures and use of voting equipment
- verify and certify results by precinct and close the polling places at the end of election day

The City provides mandatory paid training. To learn more about becoming an election judge in Golden Valley, go to www.goldenvalleymn.gov/elections/election-judges.php. 🐾



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Visit www.facebook.com/cityofgoldenvalleymn

Views Of The Valley

Photo Contest Deadline Is June 10

The 24th annual Views of the Valley photo contest is looking for photos that celebrate Golden Valley. Enter your best work, vote for your favorite photo in the People's Choice award category, or both.

The three submission categories have been altered this year to include "Natural Golden Valley," "People, Events, and Urban Scenes," and "Art and Design."

To enter, submit your favorite photos (see rules below). The entry form on this page can be photocopied or downloaded at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/events/photocontest/.


Entry deadline is June 10, 2016, at 4:30 pm. Mail or drop off completed entries to Photo Contest, City of Golden Valley, 7800 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley, MN 55427. Photo entries become the property of the City of Golden Valley and will not be returned. City employees and their families are not eligible to enter.

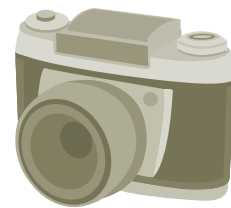
Contest Prizes

A panel of judges evaluates each entry on originality, composition and framing, clarity and focus, lighting and exposure, quality of color/B&W, artistry/drama, difficulty level/tech skill, and overall impact.

Winners in each of the three categories receive \$50, overall grand prize winner receives \$50, and People's Choice winner receives \$25. All winners are published on the City website and in *CityNews* and receive certificates of appreciation.

Photo entries will be displayed at City Hall and on the City website. From June 15–26, Golden Valley residents may vote for the

People's Choice award at City Hall during business hours (8 am–4:30 pm, Monday–Friday) or online at www.goldenvalleymn.gov. Winners will be notified in early July. Questions? Call 763-593-8004. 



ENTRY FORM

Name _____

Address _____

Zip _____ Day Phone _____

Age (if under 18) _____

Category: ☐ Natural Golden Valley
☐ People, Events, & Urban Scenes
☐ Art & Design

Title of Photo _____

I agree to let the City of Golden Valley publish my photo(s) in City publications with proper credit.

Signature _____

All photo entries become the property of the City of Golden Valley and will not be returned.

CONTEST RULES

- You must be a Golden Valley resident.
- Submit each photo in one of three categories:
 - Natural Golden Valley (landscapes, animals, flora, etc)
 - People, Events, and Urban Scenes (residents, interactions, activities, cityscapes, etc)
 - Art and Design (shots focusing on structural design, man-made beauty and art; highly artistic shots of everyday things; or photos significantly altered by editing software for artistic effect, etc)
- Submit up to three color or black-and-white prints.
 - All photos must be trimmed to 5x7.
 - Do not submit slides, photocopies, or prints not on photo-quality paper.
 - Digital files must be accompanied by a print on photo-quality paper.
 - Do not mat or frame photos.
 - Include complete entry information for each photo (see form). Be sure to indicate the category.
- All entries submitted must be your own work.
- All decisions will be final, and judges reserve the right not to award in any category.
- The City of Golden Valley will not be responsible for lost entries.
- The contest organizers reserve the right to re-categorize or disqualify any entries.
- If there are identifiable people in the photo and it was taken in a non-public space, it is the responsibility of the photographer to obtain permission to use the photo.
- **Deadline is June 10, 2016, 4:30 pm.**

Brush Pickup Is April 25–May 13

Golden Valley's annual residential Spring Brush Pick-Up, running from April 25 to May 13, gives homeowners the opportunity to place tree limbs and brush at the curb for collection and disposal.

Guidelines

Please observe the following guidelines when preparing your brush for pick-up:

- Tree limbs and brush must be 4 inches in diameter or less and approximately 8 feet long or less.
- Stack brush so the larger ends face the street (do NOT tie limbs together).
- Condense brush to one pile per household.
- Do not use plastic bags.
- Place brush and limbs on the boulevard completely clear of sidewalks, mailboxes, streetlights and sign poles, landscaping and fences, overhead tree branches, and power lines. If piles don't fit between the curb and sidewalk, place them on the boulevard behind the sidewalk. The contractor uses trucks with automated loading arms to pick up the brush piles. If your brush is stacked near a restricted area or tossed in a pile rather than stacked, it will be left behind.
- No leaves, grass clippings, stumps, soil, roots, limbs exceeding the size limits, building lumber, landscape timbers, or bags

of garbage will be picked up. If any of these items are mixed in the brush stacks, the entire stack will be left behind. The contractor will not sort through brush stacks for acceptable material.

To dispose of brush or tree waste not collected in this pick-up, contact your garbage hauler or choose another contractor.

The Spring Curbside Brush Pick-Up is a component of the Golden Valley recycling program. If you have questions about the residential brush pick-up program, call 763-593-8030 or visit www.goldenvalleymn.gov/homeyard/yards/brush-pick-up.php.

Pick Up Schedule

The City will be divided into three sections (see below), with a week designated for pick-up in each. **Brush must be placed on the curb by 8 am Monday the week of pick-up.** If there is a lot of brush, pick-up may take longer than a week.

Section 1: Week of April 25

Area north of Hwy 55 and east of Douglas Dr

Section 2: Week of May 2

Area north of Hwy 55 and west of Douglas Dr

Section 3: Week of May 9

Area south of Hwy 55

Plastic Bags No Longer Accepted In Curbside Recycling

The City's curbside recycling provider requests that residents stop putting plastic bags in their recycling bins. The bags have been breaking down and backing up the sorting machines. Republic Services will be looking for solutions to the problem, but for now, you can drop off plastic bags at one of several participating locations, which include Target, Walmart, and Lowe's, for

proper recycling. Republic Services will continue to accept most recyclable items, as long as they're not contained within plastic bags.

For more information about the recycling program, call City recycling official Tom Hoffman at 763-593-8044. 🐾

Golden Valley Recycles

GRAY Holiday Schedule

Holiday Week	Pick-Up Date
July 4	Sat, July 9
Thanksgiving	Sat, Nov 26

BLUE Holiday Schedule

Holiday Week	Pick-Up Date
Memorial Day	Sat, June 4
Labor Day	Sat, Sept 10

Missed Pick Ups

If your recycling is missed on Friday, call Republic Services at 952-941-5174, Option 5, before noon on the following Monday. If you have specific recycling questions, call 763-593-8030.

The Golden Valley Recycling Program is partially funded by the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners.



To sign up to receive emailed recycling updates and reminders, go to www.goldenvalleymn.gov/news/subscribe.

Creative Techniques Help Baffle Sediment

In their ongoing efforts to improve water quality, the City of Golden Valley and the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission got creative.

Late last year they installed what's known as a "floating water baffle" in Schaper Pond, located just north of Hwy 55 and a few blocks east of Hwy 100. The baffle is used to reduce pollutants and increase water quality. It's the first time this product has been used in a storm water treatment pond in this way, says Tom Hoffman, water resources technician.

Although this approach has never been tried in this type of storm water pond, officials are confident it will work, Hoffman says. This product has been used successfully in waste water treatment plants for years.

"It will take several years of monitoring to find out the exact pollutant load we've prevented from flowing into Sweeney Lake and downstream," Hoffman says. "But we'll have a good idea this spring how it's working."

An Installable Oxbow

Here's how the floating water baffle works: The Sweeney Branch of Bassett Creek flows through Schaper pond on its way to Sweeney Lake. Because of the current's speed and direction, the majority of the water just flowed over the shallowest area of Schaper Pond instead of meandering around its deep portion. This means the pond was not effectively removing pollutants as designed. The water baffle works as a curtain-like barrier that redirects the flow.

The device is made of impermeable fabric attached to a floating cable on the pond's surface, Hoffman says. The cable stretches


from the pond's east bank to the west end of its deepest area. The fabric curtain, which is weighted with anchors, descends to the bottom of the pond, leaving only a small window there for the water to flow under before it goes back out of the pond and toward Sweeney Lake and other downstream waters.

"We essentially added an installable oxbow to the Creek, making it take a longer path and slowing the water to allow more sediments and pollutants to filter into the pond," Hoffman says.

When 50 percent of the pond's loading capacity is reached (expected to be every 10 to 15 years), sediment build-up will then be dredged out.

In the event of large storms, the water baffle is designed to float with changing water levels. This allows more storm water to flow beneath it, preventing water from backing up.

The City has made marked progress at improving its storm water quality (see story below) over the last several years, but the battle is far from over.

"This is one of many projects that will improve water quality," Hoffman says. "But it's a long process, and it takes some creative thinking." 



City Monitors And Improves Impaired Waters

The federal Clean Water Act requires the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) to assess all state waterways, formally list those that fail to meet standards as impaired, then conduct a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) study for each pollutant cited. Respective local governments examine and implement ways to reduce pollutants so the water bodies can meet water quality standards.

In 2009, the MPCA put Sweeney, Medicine, and Wirth Lakes on the impaired waters list for excess nutrients (namely phosphorous). In response, the MPCA and the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission conducted TMDL studies on these lakes.

Since then, the City of Golden Valley has built water quality ponds, environmental manholes, and natural vegetation buffer zones around its water bodies and has orchestrated community-wide education efforts to inform residents about best management practices, such as proper lawn maintenance. And they've gotten creative in their water quality projects (see story above).

The City is working hard to meet its water quality goals for each lake. Recently Wirth Lake was removed entirely from the impaired waters list, says Eric Eckman, Golden Valley environmental coordinator.

"That's great news," says Eckman. "We're starting to see our efforts pay off." 

Recreation Highlights

Complete list in the Spring/Summer Recreation Activities catalog or at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/recreation.

Youth

Kids Club (ages 3–5)—Mon/Wed, April 4–May 18 or Tues/Thur, April 5–May 19, 9:30–11 am, Brookview, \$46.

When I'm In Charge (ages 8+)—Learn about being safe while staying home alone. Mon, April 18, 5:30–8:30 pm, Brookview, \$52.

Adult

Broadway Bound—Enrich your creative side through theater! Tues/Thur, April 5–26, 4–5:15 pm, \$40.

Co-Rec Sand Volleyball League—Tuesday eves, June 7–Aug 16, Brookview Park, \$250. Register online.

Seniors

Social Media Basics For Active Adults—Learn Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Bring your laptop or tablet (optional). Wed, Apr 6, 1–2:45 pm, Brookview, \$6 res/\$7 non-res.

Senior Par 3 Golf League Kick-Off—Thur, Apr 21, 10 am, The Grill at Brookview.

Joy of Painting® The Bob Ross® Method—Summer Scene: Sat, May 14, 1–4:30 pm, Brookview, \$60/res, \$65/non-res.

Pedal Pushers Bicycle Group Kick-Off—Tues, May 17, 10 am, Brookview. Register at 763-512-2339 by May 13.

For more information or to register, call 763-512-2345 for Youth and Adult and 763-512-2339 for Seniors (M–F, 8 am–4:30 pm). Register in person, by mail, fax, or online.



Park Improvement Projects Abound In 2016

Several Golden Valley parks will get some love this year with upgrades and improvements, all part of the City's systematic plan to keep its 19 parks up-to-date and well maintained. The hope is to replace one to two play structures a year so no playground goes more than 18 years without updating, says Rick Birno, parks and recreation director.


Spring/Summer Projects

- **Yosemite Park** will get additional swings, per residents' requests.
- The play structure at **Lakeview Park** will be replaced.
- The **Golden Oaks Park** play structure will be replaced and relocated. Also, the park will get a new basketball court with an adjustable hoop, an accessible trail, and a micro practice soccer field in place of the old ballfield.
- A gazebo will be added to the southwest corner of **Brookview Park** and will become the new location for the Concerts in the Park series. It will also be used to host wedding ceremonies and other outdoor events. The grand opening will be July 11, celebrated along with Golden Valley's annual Ice Cream Social.
- The sun shelter will be replaced at **Wildwood Park**.

Fall Projects

After two seasons of construction, improvements at the Sandburg Learning Center athletic facilities will be completed this fall. Sandburg is a principal location for Armstrong-Cooper youth baseball and soccer for Golden Valley and surrounding communities. Its baseball and softball fields were built in the early 1970s and had not had any improvements since. The soccer fields were positioned over the old softball fields and an old running track. Along with key environmental improvements to the area, improvements include:

- replacing old block dugouts with new fenced dugouts
- adding permanent outfield fence to both fields
- removing three old softball fields and a running track and re-grading the soccer field area to allow for up to nine soccer fields
- replacing failing irrigation to the baseball fields and adding irrigation to other fields
- constructing trails from the west parking lot to all fields
- adding an athletic equipment storage building in a partnership with Robbinsdale schools

Golden Valley received a \$325,000 Hennepin Youth Sports Program grant for the project, which is the result of a partnership between the City, School District 281, the Park Valley United FC, and the Armstrong-Cooper Youth Baseball Association. 

Adopt A Park, Pond, Or Storm Drain

Volunteers Help Improve Golden Valley's Natural Resources

If you have a passion for the natural environment, the City of Golden Valley offers a number of programs for volunteers to help keep the community ship-shape.



Adopt-A-Park is open to community groups, civic organizations, churches, businesses, and individuals willing to make a minimum two-year commitment. Volunteers keep an eye on their adopted parks, report any vandalism or unsafe conditions observed, and pick up litter at least twice a year.

The City provides all necessary trash bags and pick-up of full bags. To adopt a park, contact Golden Valley Parks and Recreation at 763-512-2345.



Adopt-A-Storm Drain—Aside from keeping pollutants from ever hitting the ground, there are two chances to stop it from entering surface water: before it makes it to a storm drain inlet, and before it leaves a storm drain outlet.

Consider working to keep the **storm drain inlet** on your street clear of debris. Or sign up for Golden Valley's **Storm Drain Stenciling Program**, an educational component of the City's Surface Water Management Plan. Volunteers stencil a fish symbol, combined with a "Dump No Waste" message, near storm

drains that lead to neighborhood ponds, lakes, or Bassett Creek to increase surface water awareness and remind citizens of their role in protecting water resources.

The best defense of water resources is to prevent pollutants from getting there, and **storm drain outlets** are the last frontier. City staff is available to assist, coordinate, and encourage volunteers to adopt certain storm drain outlets and set up a system to notify the City of operation and maintenance concerns and illicit discharges. If you are interested in adopting an inlet or outlet, call the Physical Development Department at 763-593-8030.

Adopt-A-Pond—New this year, the City is looking for volunteers to adopt a pond. Volunteers would periodically remove litter, debris, buckthorn, and other invasive species, and brainstorm with City staff about additional ways to improve the pond.



"It's a great program that will help us fulfill our natural resources goals and objectives, improve habitat diversity, water quality, and aesthetics, and give people an opportunity to impact the community in a positive way," says Eric Eckman, environmental coordinator.

If you are interested in adopting a pond, contact Water Resources Technician Tom Hoffman at 763-593-8044. 🐟

More Summer Volunteer Opportunities

Golden Valley has a range of volunteer opportunities that can help you celebrate summer while giving back to the community. If you're interested in any of the volunteer positions below, visit www.goldenvalleymn.gov/community/volunteers/index.php for more information or contact Parks and Recreation at 763-512-2345. 🐟

SPECIAL EVENTS

- Run The Valley (April)
- Bike Rodeo (May)
- Penny Carnival (July)
- Golden Valley Golf Classic (July)

YOUTH ATHLETICS

- Junior Golf League (June–July)

OPEN SPACE & PARK IMPROVEMENTS

- Lilac Project Maintenance (seasonal)
- Adopt a park, pond, or storm drain (see story)

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

- Photo Posse (varies)
- Tap & Ballet Show (April)
- Lawn Bowling Attendant (May–Oct)
- Summer Concert Series (June–Aug)
- Kids Fishing Club (June–July)



Douglas Drive Reconstruction Begins This Summer

After six years of planning by the City and Hennepin County, construction is set to begin this June on one of the oldest roads in Golden Valley, Douglas Dr.

To avoid closing too much of Douglas Dr (County Rd 102) at any one time, the 1.7-mile stretch of road will be reconstructed over six stages, starting at Medicine Lake Rd and moving south, segment by segment, to Hwy 55 (see map on next page). All six stages of the project are scheduled to be completed by fall 2017.

The upgraded Douglas Dr will feature additional sidewalks, turn lanes, redesigned intersections, widened right-of-ways, new landscaping, two roundabouts, and relocated and additional utilities, which will improve connectivity, traffic flow, pedestrian and bike safety, and aesthetics.

With the planning stage done, Hennepin County will take over the construction phase.

Expect Disruptions

Unfortunately, even with the phased approach, this project will be a disruption both to motorists traveling around and through the area and residents who live near the route, says Eric Seaburg, an engineer for the City and Douglas Dr project manager. However, the project will maintain access to businesses and homes.

“Be prepared for road closures, delays, and changes,” Seaburg advises. “County and City staff will be providing resources for more information, and you’ll have an opportunity to sign up for alerts and notices at the May open house.”

Project Goals


Golden Valley took a big-picture approach to studying the Douglas Dr corridor, considering not only roadway improvements and Hennepin County’s goals and requirements (such as Complete Streets, an initiative to make roads safe and

convenient for people of all ages and abilities) but future commercial and residential needs. The hope is to create a more mixed-use, business- and pedestrian-friendly corridor, says Jason Zimmerman, City planning manager.

Using community input from Envision Golden Valley, the City designed the corridor to serve the area’s needs for the next 50 years.

“Douglas Drive is one of two major north/south corridors in Golden Valley, along with Winnetka,” Seaburg says. “It’s in poor shape right now, but with this reconstruction it has the potential to become an icon for the city.”

The project will move forward with an estimated cost of \$20 million split between Hennepin County and the City. After construction, the road itself will be the same width it currently is but with on-street bike lanes and off-street sidewalks and trails that meets modern accessibility standards.

Read the complete Douglas Drive Corridor Study report and see detailed plans at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/streets/construction/douglas-drive.php. For additional project information, visit www.hennepin.us/douglasdrive. 

Open House Douglas Dr Reconstruction Project

Thur, May 19, 2016 | 6–8 pm

@ Sandburg Learning Center
2400 Sandburg Lane

Douglas Drive Reconstruction Project Staging Plan

Specific detour information for each construction stage will be published in the weeks leading up to the start date.

2016

Stage 1: Summer/Fall 2016 Medicine Lake Rd to Duluth St

Includes construction of a roundabout at Sandburg Rd.

Stage 2: Fall 2016 Duluth St to Olympia St

Stage 3: Winter 2016-2017 Pond work and culvert reconstruction

Includes reconstruction of the box culvert between Phoenix St and Knoll St, which will **require full closure of the road** at the creek crossing for approximately two months.

Stage 4: Spring/Summer 2017 Olympia St to Golden Valley Rd

Includes construction of a roundabout at Golden Valley Rd.

2017

Stage 5: Summer 2017 Golden Valley Rd to Hwy 55 Frontage Rd

Stage 6: Fall 2017 Hwy 55 Frontage Rd to Hwy 55

Includes replacing the traffic signal at the Hwy 55/Douglas Dr intersection, requiring temporary lane closings.

Police Recruits Need Gamut Of Skills

Hiring a new police officer can be a more-than-30-year investment for the City, so the vetting and training processes are particularly strict and thorough, says Police Commander Steve Johnson.

“Most people don’t know just how much we’ve invested in an officer by the time they’re on the streets,” Johnson says.

Requirements

Before the Golden Valley Police Department (GVPD) even considers a candidate, he or she must have a state license. This requires a two-year degree in law enforcement, unless the applicant has police experience in another state. Applicants must also pass the Minnesota Board of Peace Officer Standards and Training test, which caps off the two-year law enforcement program.

But the depth of experience starts well before a candidate enters a law enforcement program, Johnson says. While it’s not necessary to the job, potential employees have an edge if they can show several years’ worth of interest in law enforcement and related subjects. This might include participating in volunteer, civic duty, or high school police explorer programs, working with multicultural programs, or gaining customer service experience, then later getting experience as a security guard, police reservist, or community service officer (CSO), or any work in the military.

Candidates must also have a clean driving record and have no felony arrests or any charges relating to domestic assault.

Training

Once candidates successfully clear initial screening hurdles, they take an 80- to 90-hour two-week classroom course covering topics like use-of-force, hand gun and long gun use, hands-on defensive tactics, Taser use, report writing, policy, and local geography.

After that, new officers begin 16 weeks of field training, a process broken into five phases. The first phase is like a ride-along, Johnson says, where recruits observe more experienced officers.

By the fifth phase, the experienced officers hang back and let the recruits work the beat, stepping in only if something goes wrong.

Then, with six months of training under their belts, the new officers are finally sent out on their own, though they still must make it through a year-long probation period and take refresher courses every year after that.

Commitment

“It’s definitely a journey,” says Colin Hennessy, who started with the GVPD in February. “It takes time, and it takes commitment.”

Hennessy was a police reservist in Winona and a police intern in Plymouth for several years before joining the GVPD, but even with that experience, the on-the-job training has been an eye opener, he says.

“It’s given me a lot more context to what I already knew, and made me realize what else I have to learn.” As someone who’s not from Golden Valley, for example, getting to know the geography has been a major part of the process, he says.

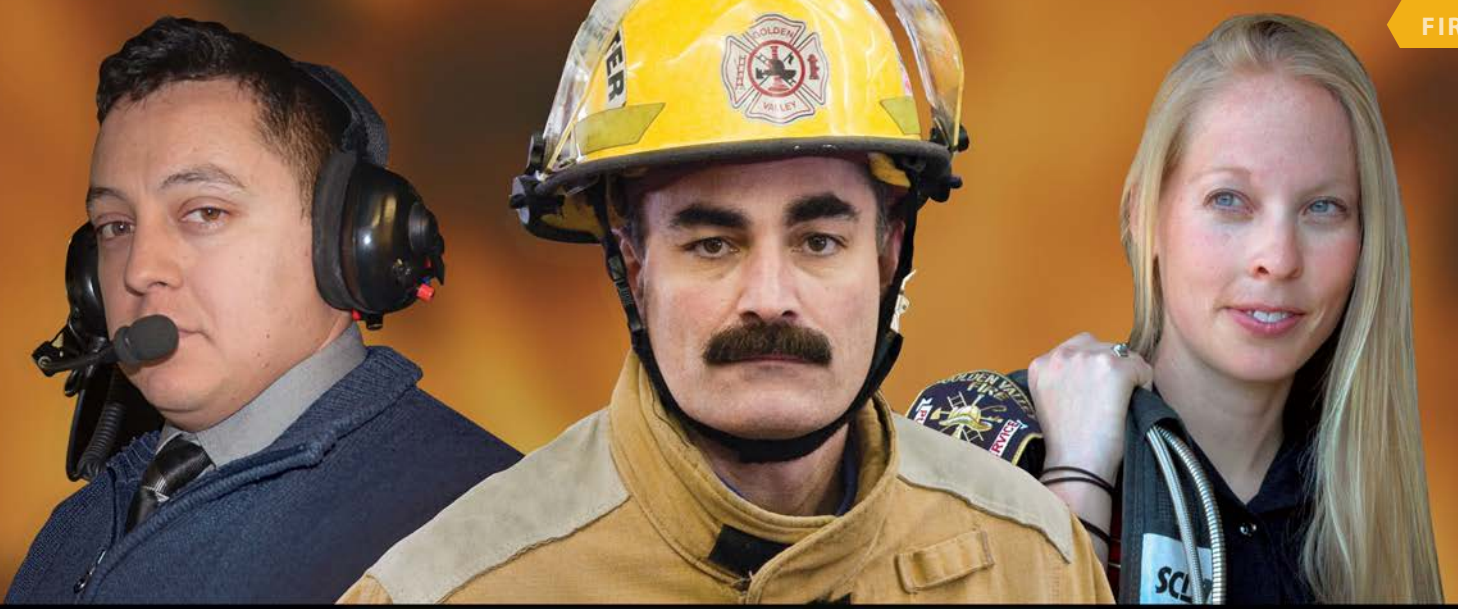
“You’re not useful unless you know where you’re going, the roads, the people, the businesses, the ins and outs of all the streets,” Hennessy says. “You have to really invest yourself in your surroundings.”

Even after all the training, some things can only be learned on the job, Johnson says.

“Until you get out there and into the work, you don’t realize how quickly and unexpectedly something can happen and change within seconds, how unpredictable, how volatile situations can become, how uncooperative people can be, and how fast something can escalate.”

For police officers, those trial-by-fire moments can come at any point in their career, and in that sense, their training is never over. ~





Firefighters Wanted

Golden Valley needs paid on-call fighters. It is a skills-driven commitment that will leave you prepared to face any number of unique challenges, both as a firefighter and as a civilian. If you are 18 and live or work within six minutes of a Golden Valley fire station, you could be part of our firefighting team. Interested but not sure you're a good fit? Attend one of the meetings below to get more information and talk with firefighters about the job, the training it requires, and how they fit it into their lives. 🏠

Fire Recruitment Expo

Thur, June 9, 6–10 pm

Fire Station 1
7800 Golden Valley Rd

Recruitment Meetings

Thur, May 5, 6:30 pm

Thur, June 23, 9:30 am & 6:30 pm
Fire Station 1, 7800 Golden Valley Rd

goldenvalleyfire.com

GV Firefighters Raise \$10,500 In *Fight For Air* Climb

Five Golden Valley firefighters participated in the Feb 27 American Lung Association *Fight For Air*, a fundraiser that brought 47 fire departments and 260 firefighters to US Bank Plaza in Minneapolis for a 31-story climb in full fire gear.

Team Golden Valley Fire bested all other participating teams by raising \$10,500 this year, bringing its 10-year total to \$97,500. Golden Valley has been the top fundraising team for seven of the 10 years it has participated in the climb.

Golden Valley Firefighter Ken Bence was once again the top individual fundraiser for the event, bringing in \$7,434. In addition, Bence and firefighter Steve Baker serve on an ALA com-



mittee, and on climb day, Baker manages a team of paramedics and volunteers who provide support for the climbers. This year's Team Golden Valley Fire members (above L to R) included Jeff Piper, Jon Kennelly, Steve Baker, Ken Bence and Dominique Guzman. 🏠

2016 PMP Continues In Northwest GV

This construction season, Golden Valley's Pavement Management Program (PMP) will continue reconstructing 2.3 miles of streets in the area north of Plymouth Ave, east of Hwy 169, south of Naper Ave, and west of the General Mills James Ford Bell Research Center.


Because the required utility repairs significantly exceed the planning level cost estimates, this portion of the PMP was split into three small projects to be done in 2015, 2016, and 2017.

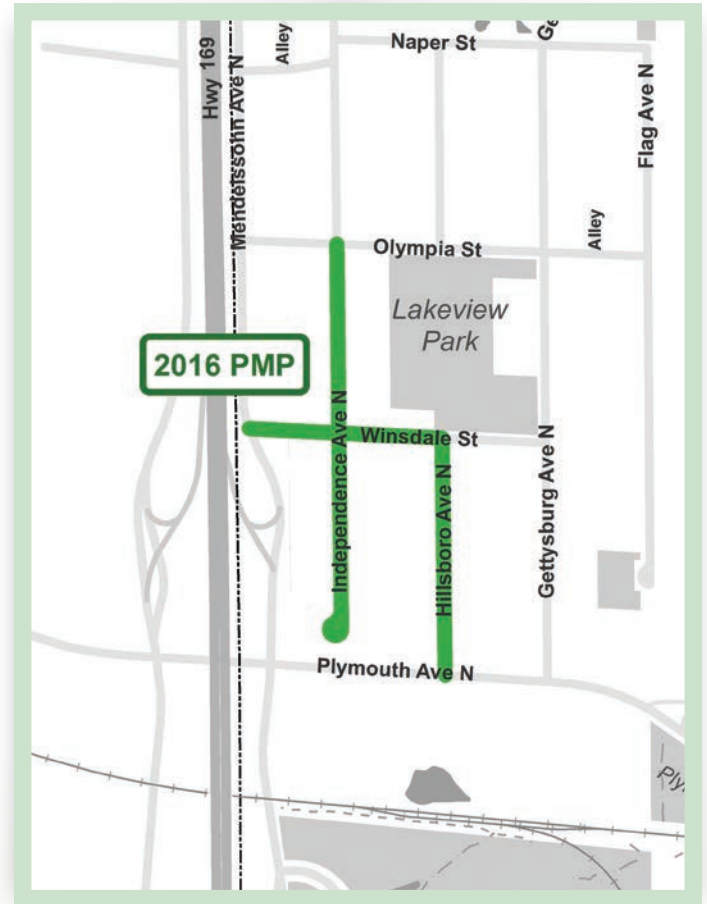
In 2016 the City will reconstruct:

- Independence Ave N from Plymouth Ave N to Olympia St
- Winsdale St from Mendelssohn Ave N to Hillsboro Ave N
- Hillsboro Ave N from Plymouth to Winsdale

The City has completed preliminary survey and design work and met with affected property owners (a public hearing was held in January 2015). The City bid the project in February, and work is expected to start in spring 2016. The project will also address necessary repairs to the storm sewer, water mains, and sanitary sewer mains.

When all reconstruction is complete, ongoing maintenance will help keep streets in good condition.

Golden Valley's PMP rehabilitates the City's aging streets as a long-term investment in the community's infrastructure. For more information, contact the City at 763-593-8030. 




Spring Street Sweeping Benefits Waterways

Golden Valley's annual street sweeping operation does more than make the streets look clean—it helps reduce sediment and nutrient loading into ponds, streams, and lakes. While sweeping, crews focus on areas near water bodies that are sensitive to contamination.

In the **spring**, crews sweep curb-to-curb in late-March/April. They sweep all gutters once during the **summer**, sweeping key areas for water quality more often if needed. In the **fall**, crews sweep curb-to-curb in October and November (waiting for as many leaves to fall as possible).

Golden Valley is divided into four sections for street sweeping. This allows crews to rotate sections each year so no area is always first or last. Section II leads off the rotation this year, followed by Sections I, IV, and III.

- **Section II boundaries:** Winnetka Ave, north City limit, Hwy 100, Hwy 55
- **Section I boundaries:** Winnetka Ave, north City limit, south City limit, west City limit
- **Section IV boundaries:** Hwy 55, Winnetka Ave, south City limit, east City limit
- **Section III boundaries:** Hwy 100, north City limit, east City limit, Hwy 55 



METRO Blue Line Cities Grant Municipal Consent

Now that the municipal consent process has concluded in each of the cities affected by the METRO Blue Line Extension light rail transit (LRT) corridor plan, the project can officially move forward. The Golden Valley City Council voted for municipal consent at its Feb 16, 2016 meeting.

The METRO Blue Line LRT corridor plan includes 11 new stations that run from Minneapolis to Brooklyn Park. The Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority, Hennepin County, and the Metropolitan Council held a joint public hearing on the plan Jan 19. State law required that all other municipalities involved conduct their own public hearings within the next 45 days. Following those hearings, Golden Valley, Brooklyn Park, Crystal, Robbinsdale, Minneapolis, and Hennepin County each voted on the plan in a process known as municipal consent.

What's Next

About 15 percent of the LRT plans have been finalized, including broad details like the route and number and location of stations. By this summer, the Met Council hopes to have 30 percent of the plans in place, which will include more station amenity details, parking lot designs, intersection redesigns, and mitigation details, says Jason Zimmerman, City planning manager.

"The next two chunks of the design process are going to capture a lot more of the visual aspects of the project," he says.

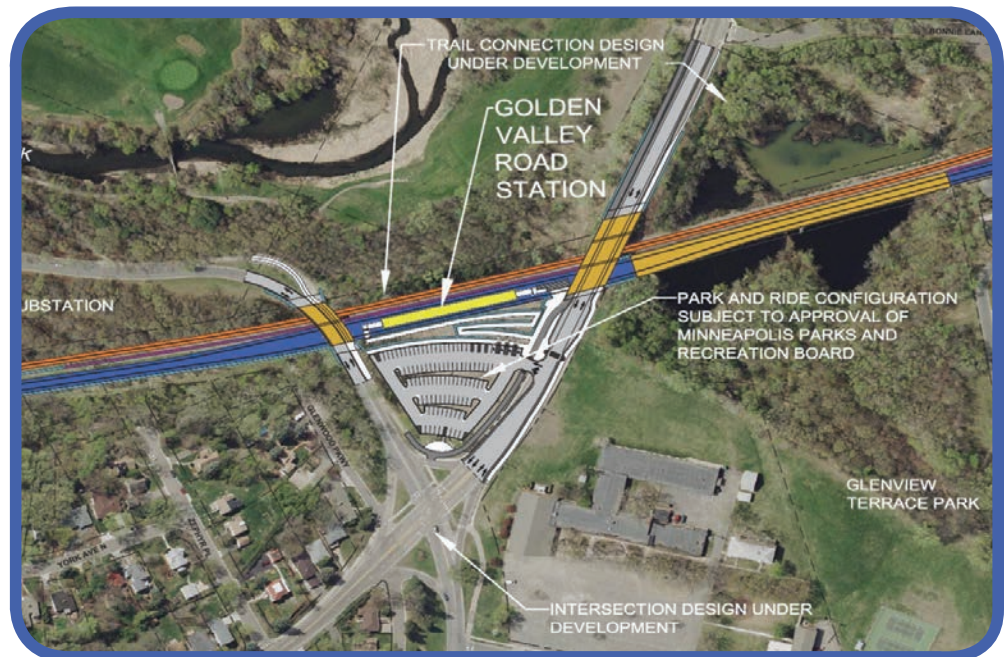
For Golden Valley, he adds, there will be a lot of discussion about the best design approach for the Theodore Wirth/Golden Valley Rd station park-and-ride, the adjacent intersection (and whether it should be changed to a roundabout), and connecting trail heads, as well as discussion on how best to mitigate excess noise and light generated by the train (including the possibility of sound

barriers), which has been one of the main concerns for nearby residents.

"There's still going to be a lot of work refining the plan going forward," Zimmerman says.

In August 2016, METRO Blue Line project office staff will finalize design plans and specifications and apply with the Federal Transit Administration to enter the engineering phase of the project. Heavy construction is set to occur in 2018-2020, with passenger service of the 13-mile extension beginning in 2021.

Residents who live close to the project areas will receive notifications about future opportunities to provide public input. Project updates and meeting notifications will also be posted at www.goldenvalleymn.gov.



City Outlines Lawn Maintenance Requirements

Golden Valley's lawn maintenance ordinance bans noxious weeds and requires turf lawns to be maintained at eight inches or less. If a property is found to be in violation of the ordinance (10.51), the City mails a letter to the property owner. The property owner then has seven calendar days to comply before the City mows the vegetation at the property owner's expense.

If the City has to mail a second violation notice to a property owner, the notice will include a general warning that the City can abate future violations without providing specific notices. The complete lawn maintenance ordinance is available at City Hall and the Golden Valley Library. For more information, contact Public Works at 763-593-8030.

Bikes And Motorists Must Share The Road

It's perfectly lawful, and in many cases necessary, for bicyclists to share the road with vehicles.

Even when there's a bike trail along the road, like with Theodore Wirth Parkway, a bicyclist may choose to stay in the street for any number of reasons. They might be traveling faster than the trail's speed limit, or faster than other bicyclists on the trail, or their bikes may be better designed for the road. The reason doesn't matter.

"A bike has just as much right to be on the roadway as a vehicle does," says Dave Kuhnly, Golden Valley bike patrol sergeant.

Minnesota law says bicyclists on the road must follow all traffic control devices just like vehicles, and drivers must also treat bicyclists like vehicles and yield to them when appropriate. But statistics show this doesn't always happen. A major cause of crashes involving bicyclists is failure to yield right-of-way, which is sometimes the fault of the driver, sometimes the fault of the bicyclist.

"What it comes down to is, everybody needs to watch out for each other," Kuhnly says. "Making eye contact with the other person goes a long way in preventing a collision."

Unless they're making a left turn, bicyclists should stay as close as possible to the right shoulder and never assume that a driver will see them or properly yield the right-of-way, Kuhnly says. In such a collision, it's the bicyclist who ends up injured, or worse.


According to the Centers for Disease Control, bicyclists face a higher risk of crash-related injury and deaths than occupants of motor vehicles, even though only about one percent of all trips taken in the US are on bike.

The Minnesota Department of Transportation's Share the Road program (www.sharetheroad.mn.org)

provides the following safety and legal reminders:

- Bicyclists may ride on all Minnesota roads, except where restricted.
- Bicyclists should ride on the road and must ride in the same direction as traffic.
- Motorists must at all times maintain a 3-foot clearance when passing a bicyclist.
- Motorists and bicyclists must yield the right-of-way to each other.
- Bicyclists must signal their turns and should ride in a predictable manner.
- Bicyclists must use a headlight and rear reflectors when it's dark.
- Bicyclists should wear reflective clothing.

Kuhnly adds that kids and adolescents should leave the on-road bicycling to adults and do their riding on bike paths and sidewalks, making sure to cross streets at crosswalks. When riding on a sidewalk, bicyclists must yield to pedestrians and give an audible signal when passing if necessary. They must also approach intersections slowly and safely.

Most importantly, bicyclists should always wear helmets. Roughly 90 percent of all people killed in bicycle accidents were reported to not be wearing helmets. 




MnDOT Seeks Public Input For Hwy 169 Mobility Study

If you travel along Hwy 169, the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) wants to know what you think. Your feedback will help MnDOT determine the best options for reducing congestion, providing reliable trip times, and improving transit along Hwy 169.

To participate, complete a short online survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Hwy169>. Share the survey with neighbors, coworkers, community members, and business owners who travel on Hwy 169. While you're on the website, check out the

public involvement schedule for upcoming events. All participants who complete the survey will have a chance to win one of two \$25 VISA gift cards.

The Hwy 169 Mobility Study was initiated by MnDOT, Scott County, and the Metropolitan Council to evaluate cost-effective options for improving transit and reducing congestion on Hwy 169 between Shakopee and Golden Valley. To learn more, go to www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/hwy169study/. 

UPCOMING events

Run the Valley

Sat, April 16 | 8 am (see page 16)

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH SPRING MEETING

Thur, April 21 | 6:30 pm
GVPD Training Room

Involvement from residents is essential in preventing crime and keeping communities safe. Meeting includes a crime prevention refresher, an update on crime patterns and trends in Golden Valley, and more.

Coffee With A Cop

Thur, April 21 | 9–10:30 am
McDonald's, 720 Winnetka Ave N

Drop by for a cup of coffee and conversation with Golden Valley police officers.

Spring Brush Pick-Up

April 25–May 13 (see page 4)

STEP TO IT CHALLENGE KICK-OFF

May 1–28

Participants in this Hennepin County program record the number of steps they walk each week or the time spent doing activities such as biking, Tai Chi, etc. Twenty-three cities compete to see which one has the most active residents. Register at www.steptoit.org.

Vehicle Fair

Sat, May 14 | 10 am–noon

Crystal Community Center, 4800 Douglas Dr N

Bring the whole family to see a variety of vehicles up close, from emergency vehicles to construction vehicles. Free!

Register through Golden Valley Parks and Recreation (www.goldenvalleymn.gov/econnect/).

Market In The Valley

Opens Sun, June 26

Outdoor farmers market under the water tower. Get more information at www.marketinthevalley.org/.

Views Of The Valley Photo Contest

Fri, June 10 | 4:30 pm (see page 3)

Public Safety Open House

Wed, June 15 | 6–8 pm

Golden Valley Public Safety Building & Fire Houses

More information at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/events/openhouse/index.php.

FIRE RELIEF ASSOCIATION STREET DANCE

Sat, June 18 | 5 pm–midnight

Chester Bird American Legion

An evening of entertainment for the whole family. Sponsored by the Golden Valley Fire Relief Association to celebrate its bond with the community.

More event information at: www.goldenvalleymn.gov/calendar

2016 BIKE RODEO

Wed, May 4 | 6–8 pm (rain or shine)

Sonnesyn Elementary School
3421 Boone Ave N, New Hope

Free event for kids ages 12 and under with an adult. Get a bike safety check, ride through a skills course, have your helmet fitted properly, enjoy music and complimentary refreshments,

and register to win prizes! No registration required. The goal is to educate kids about bike safety and introduce them to local law enforcement in a fun environment.

Sponsored by the Cities of Golden Valley, New Hope, and Crystal, and Golden Valley VFW Post 7051. 



7800 Golden Valley Road
Golden Valley, MN 55427

763-593-8000

763-593-3968 TTY

www.goldenvalleymn.gov

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To Register

- In Person: \$35 by April 15, \$40 on race day (7–7:45 am at Brookview Community Center). Check, cash, or VISA/Master-Card.
- Online (by April 14): \$35 www.goldenvalleymn.gov/events/runthevalley/index.php (additional fee may apply).
- Children 12 and under may register for \$20 when accompanied by an adult (chip timing not included—to be eligible for medal, chip timing must be used).

For more information, call Parks and Recreation at 763-512-2345 or go to www.goldenvalleymn.gov/events/runthevalley.

Run The Valley For Your Community

Event Benefits Golden Valley Residents In Need



Join your community at *Run the Valley* Sat, April 16, to help raise money for the Golden Valley Human Services Fund. One hundred percent of the proceeds are allocated to non-profit organizations that serve Golden Valley residents in need.

The event begins at 8 am for the 10K run, 8:15 am for the 5K run, and 8:20 am for the 5K walk (5K and 10K races will be chip-timed).

The .2-mile Kids Fun Run for youth ages 2–12 starts at 7:45 am (\$5 fee includes Fun Run number and participation ribbon; parents may accompany little ones for free). Race headquarters will be Brookview Community Center, 200 Brookview Parkway S, Golden Valley. The certified course runs through residential Golden Valley.

Water stops and post-race complimentary snacks are donated by area businesses. Corporate sponsors for 2016 are Park Nicollet Clinic and City of Golden Valley (gold); Bassett Creek Dental, Max Loff Real Estate, TruStone Financial (silver); and Cable 12/NWCT, Valley Pastries, and Gary Metchnek Edina Realty (bronze). Other sponsors include: Al's Coffee, Byerly's, Caribou Coffee, Finken Water Solutions, General Mills Yoplait USA, Go Health Chiropractic, Old Fashioned Donut Shoppe, Perkins Family Restaurant–Hwy 55, Perkins Family Restaurant–394, and Road ID. 🌊

Deadline For Plymouth Tree & Shrub Sale Is May 1

Once again Golden Valley residents are able to order plants from the City of Plymouth's spring tree and shrub sale.

This year's sale features eight trees and two evergreens, six shrubs, and two edible fruit-producing plants.

The plants are selected for their resistance to pests and diseases and their adaptability to local growing conditions. They also serve as good replacements for invasive species, such as buckthorn, or for ash trees affected by Emerald Ash Borer.

Most of the trees will be 5- to 6-feet tall at the time of purchase. Some come in pots, but most are bare-root, which means they will not have soil on the roots. Bare-root trees cost less, are easier to transport and have up to 200 percent more roots than the traditional balled and burlapped plants. They are also easy to plant.

Trees and shrubs do not come with a warranty. Quantities are limited, so order early. For information on available plants and pricing, or to place an order, visit

plymouthmn.gov/treesale. Order forms are also available at the Physical Development counter in Golden Valley City Hall.

Place your order by May 1. Plants will be available for pick-up May 13 and 14 at the Plymouth public works maintenance facility (14900 23rd Ave N).

For more information, or if you have questions about the trees after buying them, contact Tim Teynor, City forester, at 763-593-3976 or tteynor@goldenvalleymn.gov. 🌊



This document is available in alternate formats upon a 72-hour request. Please call 763-593-8006 (TTY: 763-593-3968) to make a request. Examples of alternate formats may include large print, electronic, Braille, audiocassette, etc.

